MARVEL

13

LGY#638

CANTWELL
CAFU
D'ARMATA

IRON MAN

Korvac, resurrected in an android body, seeks to boost his powers to godlike levels by stealing cosmic energies from *Taa II*, Galactus' worldship. Iron Man assembled an eclectic team of heroes, including Hellcat, to pursue Korvac off-planet. While en route in space, Iron Man was separated from his team. Tony and his ally Avro-X were eventually teleported directly to *Taa II* by the Living Tribunal, who noted that Tony was needed to prevent a coming cosmic imbalance.

Korvac, along with his followers, arrived at the worldship shortly after Tony and Avro-X. The two groups engaged in a brutal battle, during which Korvac killed Avro-X. Tony, already injured and on morphine for his extensive injuries, was badly beaten and left for dead just as Hellcat and the other heroes blasted their way into the worldship.

THE GREAT I-M

IRON MAN

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I CAN'T STOP HIM.

GET UP! *GET UP, DAMN YOU!*

WE...HAVE TO GO *NOW*-- WHILE THERE'S *STILL* TIME...

LORD KORVAC... I'M *HURT*...

FIND YOUR *STRENGTH*, UNICORN. *SALVATION* IS AT HAND!

"My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"
—John 14:2

SHIPWIDE PORTAL SYSTEM-- ACTIVATED.

LIKE IT WAS *YESTERDAY*... THIS IS MY *DESTINY*...

KZZSAAAAAH

...NO...

...NO.

I GOT HIM. HE'S ALIVE.

YOU JUST COULDN'T LET US DO IT *WITHOUT* YOU, *HUH?*

TELL YOU THE ***TRUTH***... I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD DO ***ANYTHING*** WITHOUT YOU, PATSY WALLCAT...

YOU GUYS SEEN ***MY FACE-PLATE...?***

DON'T WORRY--WE'RE *FINE.* NO NEED TO *HELP* US, WASN'T LIKE WE WERE *TRAPPED INSIDE* THE BURNING SPACECRAFT.

KRATTUONGK!

BROKE MY *GLASSES.* THOSE WERE *NICE* GLASSES. AND I BELIEVE HALCYON'S SUIT IS *MALFUNCTIONING.*

EH... I FEEL GREAT.

KORVAC... ACTIVATED *TAA II's* ***PORTAL SYSTEM.*** B.O.S.S., TRY TO GAIN CONTROL OF IT... HELLCAT, SCARLET SPIDER, GARGOYLE, MISTY WITH *ME...*

<DISSEMINATING. NETWORK. CODE... WORKING...>

WAR MACHINE, HALCYON, FFFFFFFROG... FIND A ***SELF-DESTRUCT...*** THERE *HAS* TO BE ONE, KNOWING GALACTUS.

IT MIGHT BE OUR *ONLY* CHANCE OF STOPPING KORVAC FROM REACHING THE ***POWER COSMIC...***

WHO DID THIS *HELMET* BELONG TO?

...A *FRIEND* OF MINE. A *HERO...*

IT'S TIME WE *NAMED* THIS TEAM. JUST IN CASE...*YOU KNOW.*

OKAY. WE ARE... THE SPACE FRIENDS.

HA. HM. I MEAN, WE'RE FRIENDLY...BUT ARE WE *FRIENDS?*

GZZNK

TONY, ARE YOU *OKAY?*

I MEAN... LOOK--WE'RE IN SPACE...AND YOU'RE MY FRIENDS.

NOT MY EMPLOYEES AS I HEARD ONE OF YOU SAY EARLIER...

'KAY, LET'S *MOVE*--RHODEY, KEEP YOUR *SUIT CHANNEL* OPEN...

MOMENTS LATER.

I GET WHY HE SENT *YOU TWO* TO FIND A SELF-DESTRUCT. YOU KNOW MACHINES AND ENGINES. BUT WHY *ME?*

BOINNG!

WELL... YOU'RE KIND OF A **LIABILITY.** TONY PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT YOU NEAR **KORVAC.**

WHOA, EXCUSE ME-- *"LIABILITY"?* THAT'S NOT TRUE...

WHAEEEOOSSHH

AGGH!

KUD-

DNNCHH

RHODES!

KORVAC SENDS HIS REGARDS TO THE *HERETICS.*

HMMMPFFH!

FROGGY, BACK UP THE KID WHILE I THAW OUT!

222HHHEEEOOWWM

I'VE GOT BLIZZARD, HAL!

THWACK!

BOINNNGG

AND NOW I'VE GOT *YOU*, YOU *KERMIT-LOOKING* PIECE OF--

ZZWWAADDOOSSSK

LOOK! DOWN *BELOW!*

I'VE GOT A BEAD ON *KORVAC*...

YOU'LL GET YOURSELF KILLED!

OR MAYBE I'LL SAVE THE *ENTIRE UNIVERSE*...

IT'S JUST AS I *TOLD* YOU. I'LL ACCESS THE POWER WITHIN THE *TRANSMUTATION CHAMBER...*

...BUT THE *PATH OF GOD* MUST FIRST BE *ILLUMINATED.*

ZZSHHEEAAUNK

IT'S *MAGNIFICENT,* ISN'T IT?

HEY, PREACHER MAN!

FWOUMPF

YEEAAUGH!

LORD KORVAC!

BROTHER MILOS, GUARD THIS PORTAL ACCESS POINT. I'LL SECURE THE *CHAMBER UPSTAIRS...*

YES, BROTHER BASIL!

GRRNNGH!

KZZZZZZ

SST!

CHE-TDUNK

GYYAH...

THNNDT

THROUGH HERE! HURRY!

ZYEOWFF

KAEEKKOOM

YOU MIGHT BE DEVELOPING ASTIGMATISM IN THAT THIRD EYE...

WHAT'S UP, MY LITTLE PONY?

PAOWKCH

PAAEKCH

YOU KNOW, THIS BIONIC ARM REMAINS ONE OF YOUR BETTER IDEAS.

THANKS FOR BEATING HIM UP WITH IT.

<UPDATE:> <PORTAL SYSTEM... ACCESSED.><READ/ WRITE/REPROGRAM ENABLED.> <?COMMAND?>

HHYYYYAAAARR--

BANOSHEE BANOSHEE

AAAGH!

I DON'T THINK THE GUN WAS MY IDEA...

NO, THAT WAS ALL ME.

B.O.S.S.... OPEN...OPEN AS MANY PORTALS IN THE SHIP AS YOU CAN, BUT REDIRECT THEM ALL INTO THIS ROOM...

<INCREASING... ACCESS POINTS BY A POWER OF:> <25.><SETTING TERMINUS...>

KZZSAAAAH

HI. HOW'S IT GOING?

YOU!

BYE.

ENJOY MY FRIEND'S NEW MENTAL ACUITY.

AAAAA

SPLAEATCHH...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S WRAP UP THIS PILGRIMAGE TO A *"HOLY LAND"* THAT *NEVER* WAS. HOW'S THAT SOUND?

COME OUT TO THE *COSMOS*, HAVE A FEW *LAUGHS!*

BROOMMFFF

OOOFF!

NOTHING WILL STOP THE TRANSFIGURATION...

TO THE *ENTRANCE*, BROTHER JAMES...

DAMMIT, NO...

WHOOOOOSSSSH!

WHAT THE...

YOU KNOW HOW MANY OF THESE *HOODIES* I'VE HAD TO REPLACE? AND THEY STOPPED MAKING THEM IN *1998*...

RHODEY, DO YOU COPY?

--KZZZYEAH, I HEAR YOU, TONY--

*WE'RE PURSUING **KORVAC**. UNICORN AND CONTROLLER ARE **DOWN**, BUT SO IS **FROG-MAN**.... TAKE ANY--**OW**... ACCESS PORTAL YOU SEE AND YOU'LL GET TO THE RIGHT PLACE. HE NEEDS HELP **ASAP**.*

*ON MY WAY WITH HALCYON **NOW**.*

*OKAY, MY **SPACE FRIENDS**... THIS IS ABOUT TO GET **VERY** REAL **VERY** FAST... GO FOR **KORVAC**. JIM HAMMOND'S OBVIOUSLY BEING-- **NGGH**...CONTROLLED, BUT DO **WHATEVER** YOU NEED TO IN ORDER TO GET HIM **OUT OF THE WAY**...*

I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS IF KORVAC ACCESSES THAT POWER IN THERE...

*AND--I THINK MY **BRAIN IS BLEEDING**.*

<DIAGNOSIS: CORRECT.> <EPIDURAL. HEMATOMA.> <-2 CENTIMETERS- PRESSURE ON...><DURA MATER.><ANTERIOR. RIGHT.>

THAT SEEMS BAD. TONY--

*LET'S GO. BEFORE I... **PASS OUT** OR **FORGET** WHO I AM...*

KORVAC!

"His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light."
—Matthew 17:2

YOU'RE TOO *LATE*, STARK.

AS FOR WHAT COMES NEXT... YOU'RE *WELCOME.*

ISAAC, TAKE ME UP.

WHAT--

FLY, DAMMIT! *GET ME UP THERE!*

PATSY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA PUT OUT THE *FIRE*, CHIEF.

PATSY...

CLOSER, ISAAC...

AWAY FROM HIM! AWAY FROM THE *SAVIOR!*

GIMME A *TARGET*, STARK!

BOTH ARE ADAM ANDROIDS. BULLETS WON'T DO IT--

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD *AT LEAST* SHOOT AT *SOMETHING!*

TRY THE BEAM SOURCES IN THE CEILING-- PATSY, DON'T!

NOW, ISAAC!

STOP!

GZZZEEOOW--

KNOCKBACK

DO NOT ***BEGRUDGE*** ME, TONY. WE HATE ***MOST*** THAT WHICH WE SEE IN OTHERS BUT ***CANNOT*** HAVE. ***POWER, CONTROL, VISION...*** SEEING YOUR ***SHORTCOMINGS*** IN THESE WAYS IS ***PAINFUL,*** I KNOW, BUT I WILL ***STILL*** WELCOME YOU WITH ***OPEN ARMS...***

C'MON, C'MON...

BKOSHF BKOSHF

HEZSHF

VEEFOOMMM

WHAT...?

YOU SAID DO ***ANYTHING*** YOU CAN.

YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME...

FUNNY... I WASN'T AFRAID ***AT ALL.***

WWRRRRRRRRRR

LLLLLLLLL

THEY'RE ALREADY *REPAIRING* IT!

YEAH, *WOW*, GALACTUS OUGHTA GIVE THESE LITTLE GUYS A *RAISE*...

HEY, JIM.

TONY...? WHAT'S *HAPPENED...?*

YOU BRIEFLY JOINED A CULT. IT'S OKAY. IT HAPPENS.

SCRATCH THAT--I THINK ALL THESE THINGS SHOULD BE *FIRED*...

I *HATE* TINY ROBOTS!

IS THERE *MORE* TO THAT STORY, OR-- *OW!*

KCHZZZEEOOO

WWAAWW--

WWOO--

WWWWWOOOOVVSSHHH

WE DON'T NEED ANY GODS BORN FROM FEAR.

BAOSHF BAOSHF

NNNAAA

BEEN NICE KNOWING YOU, MIKE.

BUT CHURCH IS OVER.

KWWA UMPF

KKRACK

KKRACKACK ACKACK ACKACK

KKRAUMCKH

BWWEEOOOON...

TONY, CALM DOWN--

HHUUEEDAHH!

KRREASSTCH

SORRY, I JUST... I...REALLY...HATE HIM...

...OKAY... ...EVERYBODY... TAKE FIVE...

CLANNGK

TONY!

HEY, HEY, GANG'S ALL HERE--
STARK?!
OH NO...
VOOOOOVVVVVV
YOU NEED A DOCTOR. NOW.
...NNNNBUT I'M IN SPACE, THOUGH...WITH MY...SPACE FRIENDS...
OPEN YOUR MIND TO WHAT I SHALL DISCLOSE...
...AND HOLD IT FAST WITHIN YOU...
...HE WHO HEARS BUT DOES NOT HOLD WHAT HE HAS HEARD...LEARNS NOTHING...
I CAN'T STOP HIM.

OF COURSE I CAN'T.

BECAUSE...DESPITE EVERYTHING...ALL MY GIFTS, ALL MY ABILITIES, ALL MY *EFFORTS*... I'M NOT *ENOUGH*.

I *NEVER* WAS.

HE'S *RIGHT*.

TONY!

SO I MAKE A *CHOICE*.

AND NOW I AM *SOMETHING*...

...*MORE*.

NEXT

IRON MAN HAS TASTED A HIGHER POWER AND IS FOREVER CHANGED. NOW HE FINDS HIS VERY EXISTENCE ALTERED BEYOND RECOGNITION. IT COULD MEAN RADICAL AND DRASTIC CHANGE FOR THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE... AND FOR REALITY ITSELF.

ZONE